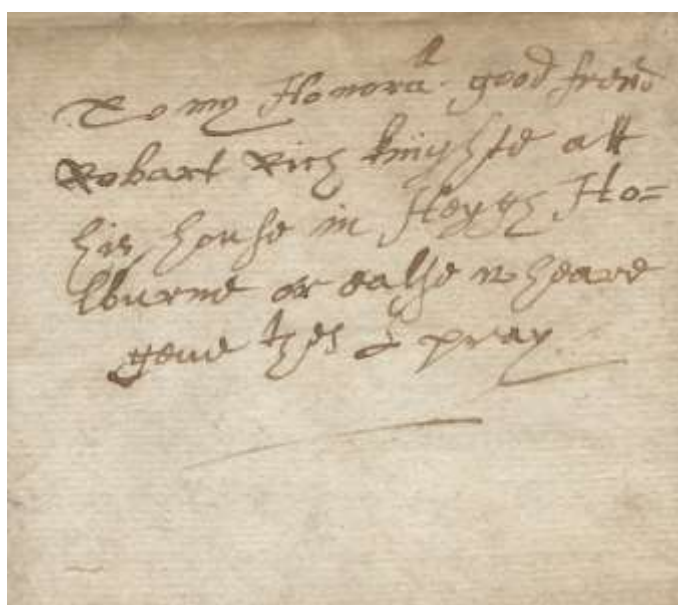




STUDY CIRCLE

THE REDISCOVERY OF A 1617 LETTER FROM BERMUDA



SEE ARTHUR H. GROTEN'S ARTICLE.



BULLETIN No. 247 December 2015



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BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE**OBJECTIVES**

- 1 TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the British West Indies and in addition BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS (BELIZE) and the Postal History and markings of all other Caribbean territories during any period that they were under British administration or control, and those British Post Offices which operated in the Caribbean, and Central or South America.
- 2 TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features of BWI interest. The BWISC BULLETIN was presented with the ABPS Specialist Society journal Award in 2004.
- 3 TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aims of the Circle. The BWISC has published over 20 books or Study Papers over the last 12 years, some of which have received prestigious awards.
- 4 TO hold an annual auction for the sale of members' material. Normally, prior to the auction, the BWISC holds its Annual General Meeting.
- 5 TO organise occasional display meetings including a biennial weekend Convention and bourse. This offers further opportunities for members to buy and sell material.
- 6 TO maintain an internet website where information about Circle activities is publicised and where much other relevant information is posted.
- 7 TO maintain a specialised library from which home members can borrow books.

**Opinions expressed in articles in this Bulletin are those of the authors
and not necessarily those of the BWISC, its Editor or its Officers.**

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SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION

MEETINGS & EVENTS

17–20 February 2016 Spring Stampex, BDC Islington, London, N1 0QH (no formal Study Circle meeting)

Saturday 23 Apr 2016 – AGM and Auction at Spink, 69 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, London, WC1B 4ET. Auction viewing from 12 noon, AGM at 1:15pm, followed by auction at 2:15pm.

Thursday 28 April 2016 David Pitts will be displaying Bermuda at the Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London, W1G 6JY

Saturday 14 May 2016 Circle table and meeting to be held in Worcester at WORPEX 2016, venue still to be confirmed.

Saturday 28 May to Saturday 4 June 2016 – FIP: World Stamp Show -NY 2016, Javits Centre, New York City 2016. Entrance Free. BCPSG events planned for 1 and 3 June.

Further details can be found at www.ny2016.org

The Study Circle will be sharing a booth with the BCPSG and the Bermuda Collectors Society.

Our members featured prominently in the APS Stamp Show held in Grand Rapids Michigan on the weekend of 20–23 August, hearty congratulations to all.

Competing for the Champion of Champions as Grand Award winners:

Richard Maisel – The Nineteenth Century Sailing Ship Stamps of British Guiana.

David R. Pitts – Bermuda Postal History: Early Days to the UPU.

Both were awarded the World Series of Philately Prix d'Honneur.

Gold medals were awarded to:

David Cordon for A Study of the Bermuda King George V 'Key Plate'

Peter P. McCann for Montserrat: Postal History of a Caribbean Island.

Note that three of these exhibits in abbreviated form were part of our display to the RPS last November.

**Congratulations to James Podger on being elected to the Council of the RPSL, quite an honour.
He remains on the RPSL Library Committee.**

CONVENTION 2015

The 2015 Convention took place at the Honiley Court Hotel, Warwickshire, on 3 and 4 October. The members and dealers who attended were treated to two outstanding invited displays, and a number of excellent informal displays of BWI philately.

Saturday morning started with informal displays given by James Podger who presented Cayman Islands, The Centenary of the 'Assembly of Justices and Vestry', Alister Kinnon showed a selection of St. Lucia, First Airmails, Richard Watkins displayed Bermuda, and Antony Wilkinson, Clarks Town, Jamaica.

On Saturday afternoon Peter Ford presented a display of King George V stamps and proofs from Antigua, Barbados, British Guiana, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands.

At the dinner, Graham Booth gave a speech of welcome, in which he recalled members and stalwarts of the Circle who had died since the last Convention in 2013. He presented our winners from Rossica with their medals and certificates (Steve Jarvis, Large Gold for the website; Peter Fernbank, Large Gold for his keyplates book; Ian Jakes, Large Silver for his book about the Trinidad Red Cross label). He then announced the Collett Awards. Michael Oliver, for his article on Imperium essays was given the Bulletin award. The Book award was made to Richard Maisel, for 'British Guiana: The Provisionals of 1882' and Peter Ford, for Tobago and for his work as Editor of many BWISC publications. Neither Michael nor Richard were able to be present, but Peter Ford signed the roll at the dinner.



The Prize-winners with the President.
Left to right Steve Jarvis, Peter Fernbank, Graham Booth, Peter Ford and Ian Jakes.

Once more, the experts' table was a highlight with insightful and razor sharp commentary on an interesting range of items: was an essay "Ex-De la Rue"? How were particular postage rates to be explained? And why had a full pane of Bahamas 1s stamps been cancelled?

On Sunday morning, the weather was beautiful, bright sunshine and clear blue skies. Malcolm Lacey and Peter Webber of Heart of England Philatelics joined the bourse. At 11.30 Simon Richards presented an extraordinary formal display of Dominica, ranging widely across areas of philately from pre-stamp postal history, through a systematic selection of die proofs and colour trials as well as the issued stamps, to censored covers and local postmarks. James Podger gave the vote of thanks. After a hearty lunch, the afternoon was passed in a leisurely way, members browsing the dealers' stock, talking, and sharing notes.

The finale was a second round of members' mini-displays. Ian Jakes displayed charitable and patriotic labels. Charles Freeland showed a study of open-item censorship in WWII. Simon Kelly presented a detailed and extensive study of the Bahamas 1s green, 1862–1896. Graham Booth presented material related to the history of the Booth Line, including paquebot marks and advertising pamphlets. James Podger confirmed Graham's suspicion that the use of a Jersey stamp on a Booth Line paquebot cover would not have been appropriate, since Jersey stamps were not valid on GB mail. Paul Farrimond gave an interesting display of Jamaica WWII censorship material, carefully distinguishing local and imperial censors, and their differing roles in relation to terminal and transit censorship. The items he selected illustrated very well some of the analysis provided in "Jamaica Military Mails", recently published by BWISC and written by Paul with Raymond Murphy. Steve Jarvis also displayed Jamaica, concentrating on correspondence with Major Kent, including careful analysis of the postal rates between Jamaica and India, where Major Kent had been serving. Jonathan Guy showed a selection of sheets, based on a prize winning exhibit he had prepared for his stamp club, his first competitive entry. This focused on the way a shortage of ½d stamps in the 1890s had been handled in Barbados in different contexts, e.g. by using crowned circle marks to confirm payment. So many excellent displays were volunteered by members that this session ran nearly 30 minutes longer than expected.

Scans of many of these displays are available to view on the Study Circle website.



Simon Richards giving his formal display



James Podger with his display



Ray Stanton, Col. John Riggall,
Terry Harrison & David Druett



Steve Jarvis, Paul Wright
and Graham Booth



Members and guests enjoying the dinner.

FROM THE PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

PETER FORD

It is a while since I have updated the membership on progress in the Publications Empire. As reported to the AGM, we had a bumper year for sales in 2014, helped enormously by our Hon. Secretary, George Dunbar attending various philatelic events around the country. This year so far we have had much success at EUROPHILEX 2015 in London where we sold nearly £1,250 worth of books and our Convention in October realised some £360 in sales. These are very good figures and makes me realise that our publishing programme is a well worthwhile pursuit. As far as future publications are concerned, Charles Freeland and John Jordan are cracking on with our new handbook on Antigua and it is shortly due for publication as a hardbacked book. We anticipate releasing another hardbacked book on Bahamas later in the New Year as well as a softbacked book on the Tudway Papers.

The only real cloud on the horizon is the incredible increase in postage costs. Books are, by their very nature, heavy items, and postage costs are something we all have to bear in mind when ordering books. This is especially true when books have to be posted overseas. To this end I have made arrangements for at least some of our books to be available to our North American members via Ed Barrow who has volunteered to carry small stocks of our newer books. First up will be Tom Giraldi's Cayman Islands Postcards book priced in US\$25 plus shipping. Later we hope to have the Jamaica Military Mails book available. I either have done or am doing a couple more of our older publications which have sold out; these include Volume 2 of Mike Rego's Steamship Lines to the Caribbean and Ron Wike's Trinidad Airmails book. I will send a few of these on to Ed.

Also quite a few of our members from the UK will be attending the show in New York next June and we hope to bring over a small quantity of our publications. Needless to say the number will be very limited and if any North American member intending to be there wants to order a book, can they let me know as soon as possible. It will be on a first come first served basis and, I say again, numbers will be limited.

If any member thinks we need a book on any particular subject or is willing to write one, please let me know. The costs of publishing these days must be about the only thing that has gone down in price and the fact that we can order very small quantities means we do not have to hold large stocks.

To quote my friend, Mike Rego, 'Publication breeds information'.

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE PUBLICATIONS
ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF JAMAICAN PHILATELY, VOLUME 9
MILITARY MAILS
by Paul Farrimond and Raymond Murphy

This book is based on the original written by the late Derek Sutcliffe; it has been thoroughly revised and largely re-written. It continues the aim of presenting the Jamaica Encyclopaedia in a new softbacked format with many illustrations now in full colour.

A4 sized, perfect bound, (viii) + 458 pages. ISBN: 978-1-907481-24-6
Price: £29.00 (\$45.00). BWISC Members' Discount: £3.00 (\$4.50).



This book can be ordered from:- David Druett, Pennymead Books, 1 Brewerton St., Knaresborough, N. YORKS. HG5 8AZ. Tel:- 01423 865962 or E-mail: Pennymead@aol.com. Orders will be dispatched with invoice and prompt payment is requested. Members resident in North America can purchase this book from Ed Barrow at e.barrow1@gmail.com.

The following two pages are from Peter Ford's display of King George V stamps and proofs.

Antigua

In August 1931 the huge Dornier DO-X airliner called at Antigua.

This 12-engined goliath was on a proving flight from Germany to the United States and had been en-route for nearly 10 months due to various misadventures. This cover addressed to the UK is franked by 3 x 4d adhesives and shows a special flight cachet from Antigua; it also shows a Jusqu'à mark in black indicating that the journey from New York to England was completed by sea.



Antigua B.W.S. 20th August, 1931.

Montserrat

In June 1930 a flight of an experimental nature had been planned by the New York, Rio and Buenos Aires Airline (NYRBA) between Antigua and Montserrat, the aircraft to carry mail in each direction. The flight was due to leave Montserrat on 3 June and mail was prepared accordingly, although most of it seems to have been 'philatelic'. Owing to bad weather, however, the flight had to be postponed, and eventually was abandoned altogether. In February 1931 a seaplane from HMS DORSETSHIRE carried the waiting mail to St. Kitts. It bears a 'FIRST AIR MAIL' boxed cachet. This cover then went on to St. Lucia.



Another cover to St. Lucia bearing one of the St. Lucia provisional Postage Due stamps; backstamps show that it went via Dominica.



The following two pages are from Simon Richards display of Dominica.

DOMINICA

1874 Queen Victoria – proofs

In November 1873 the Dominica Government asked the Crown Agents to supply stamps of 1d, 6d and 1s denominations using a design with the Queen's head. In turn De La Rue were asked to provide an estimate for a die-plate of 60 multiples and three overprint duty forms. Their estimate was accepted.



Master Die Proof in black



Cut-down Master Die Proof in magenta

Cancelled proofs with blank value tablet were made in lilac.



Imperforate Cancelled proofs of the 1d and 6d were produced.



1d lilac



6d green

DOMINICA**1882-83 Halfpenny overprinted on 1d**

The cover below shows all three types of overprint and pays the correct 4 ½ d rate.



16 March 1883 envelope to Barbados, 2 ½ d postage and 2d registration fee, paid with blocks of four of the later two overprints and a single of the earliest.

The cover below shows the earliest use of the boxed TOO LATE instructional mark.



10 August 1883 envelope to St Kitts, also showing the 4 ½ d rate.

BAHAMAS

AIRMAIL RATE

BY KEITH HANMAN



In 1935 (I do not have a more exact date so would appreciate some help here) the air mail rate to America for letters up to 1½ ounces was increased to 8d from 6d for half-ounce. That takes care of the 8d adhesive, but what did the extra 6d adhesive give the sender? Why was an 'Express' sticker used and also a violet two-line cachet 'Fee Claimed by Office/of First Address'? There is a blue crayon 3 just to the right of the address. Posted Nassau 24 August 1936, backstamped Miami a day later, there are two further stamps, Chicago.Ill. Registry Div. and Chicago (Ravenswood Sta.) Registered, both dated 25 August 1936.



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BARBADOS

POSTAGE DUES – NEW FINDS

BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT

- Students of Barbados will recognise the constant flaw (Fig. 1), a white fleck which connects the distorted 'T' of 'POSTAGE' to the arched frame which contains 'POSTAGE DUE'. Positioning it has always eluded me – until now. Acquisition of a block comprising the bottom two rows of the 6x10 sheet shows the flaw to be at position 9/5, so that collectors owning a bottom right corner block of four should find it unless, that is, it was corrected in later printings.



Fig. 1

- We accept that, right from the introduction of the pathfinding Surcharge Postage issue of Trinidad in 1885, De La Rue's BWI Postage Dues were printed from double plates, one for the frame plus a set of duties to meet each Colony's denominational needs. SGD7c, with its centre inverted, is the extreme exponent of this process, but very occasionally more affordable specimens turn up. Fig. 2, SG D5 on ordinary paper, shows the impression of the '2c' duty encroaching on the frame – an impossibility unless frame and duty were printed in separate operations. Until Bayley (Note 1) disabused us, the received wisdom was that De La Rue printed the Barbados Postage Dues from a single composite plate.



Fig. 2

- Bayley (note 1) acknowledges the valid existence of local 'SPECIMEN' overprints used by the Barbados Post Office to deface stamps for presentation purposes (e.g. type BAR 4). Not included in his listing, however, are the Postage Dues at Fig. 3, SG. D4-6.



Fig. 3

Note 1: The Stamps of Barbados by Edmund E Bayley FRPSL . 1989



BERMUDA

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BERMUDA

IDENTIFICATION AND PRICING OF K1, K3 AND K4 NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS BY MICHAEL HAMILTON AN OMISSION.

Michael's article in Bulletin No. 246, September 2015, went to press minus the following chart, for which the editor apologises unreservedly.

	SG 1	SG 2	SG 3	SG 4	SG 5	SG 5a	SG 7	SG 10	SG 11	SG 19	SG 20	SG 21	SG 21a	SG 22	SG 23	SG 24	SG 24a	SG 25	SG 26	SG 27	SG 27a	SG 28
K3a 5	3	1	1		1					1	1			3	1					2		14
K3a 6	2	1	1		1		1	2	2	2				1	5					1		19
K3a 7	1		3	1				2	3	3				4	4					2	1	24
K3a 8	4		1					1	2	1				6	4					2	1	23
K3a 9	2					1			5	2				2	2			1				15
K3a 10		1		1				1	4	2				2	4			1			1	17
K3a 11	2		1					2		1				2	1					1		10
K3a 12	2		2				1	7	1	3				4	7					3	1	33
K3a 13	3		3	1	1			1	4					5	1							19
K3a 14	2	2	3						1					6						1	1	16
K3a 15	3		3				1	1	3	5				7	7					1	1	32
K3a 16	5	1	4						2	2				2								16
K3a 17	3								1					2								7
K3a 18									1					1								2
K3a 19			1				1		1	1				1	1							6
K4a 5										1				3						1	1	6
K4a 6									1	1		2		2	7	5	1			3	2	24
K4a 7									2		1			1	1	2	1	1		1		10
K4a 8							1		2	2					5	9	5			2		26
K4a 9									6	1	1	1		1		3	1					14
K4a 10														4		2						6
K4a 11			2						2						4	5				3	1	17
K4a 12								1	1	2				7	4	18	1		11	4	1	50
K4a 13									2	2				1	4	5			2			16
K4a 14														1	5	1				2		9
K4a 15								2	1					11	2	2				2		20
K4a 16																						-
K4a 17									1						3	1				5	2	12
K4a 18									1						2	3	1			1		8
K4a(1) 19														1		1				1		3
K4a(11) 19																1	2			1	4	8

A table (retained and illustrated) was made for the K3a and K4a on their respective SG numbers. The totals were 253 stamps with K3a and 229 stamps with K4a. A total of 482 stamps to grade by quality of strike and assign individual prices which would hopefully make sense to the most knowledgeable collectors/postmark buyers of the day – namely Chalmers, Chard, Dickgiesser, Forand, Freeland, Ingalls, Ludington, Mitton, Nixon, Osborn, Young etc.

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THE REDISCOVERY OF A 1617 LETTER FROM BERMUDA

BY ARTHUR H. GROTEN

Remarkable finds are still to be made. The earliest letter from Bermuda in private hands, written 22 May 1617, has just resurfaced after 45 years. It has never before been in philatelic hands.



Fig. 1

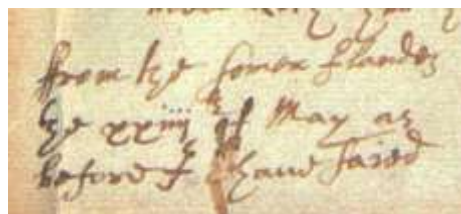


Fig. 2

Written by Charles Wolferston, recently arrived at Bermuda, it is addressed to Sir Robert Rich (Fig. 1) who, with his cousin Sir Nathaniel Rich (1585–1636), was one of the earliest investors in the Somers Isles Company, formed in 1615 to manage Bermuda as a commercial venture. The vast majority of the Rich Papers, as they are known, were sent to Sir Nathaniel, making this letter to Sir Robert somewhat unusual; only two others are listed in Vernon A. Ives's *The Rich Papers: Letters from Bermuda, 1615–1646*, a transcription of those Rich documents are now in the Bermuda National Trust.

Sir Nathaniel's correspondence with family members, officials, plantation managers and tenants, along with other Bermuda-related documents, became known as the Rich Papers. They give much detail about the organisation, trade, politics and so forth of the colony in its very early years. At his death in 1636, his third wife married the Earl of Manchester and the Rich Papers became part of the Manchester Papers. In 1880, the eighth Earl deposited the Papers in the Public Record Office in London. Nearly 100 years later, in 1969, the tenth Earl withdrew them to sell them at public auction through Parke-Bernet in New York on 5 May 1970. The majority of the papers pertaining to Bermuda, comprising 97 documents, were bought by Bermudians and deposited at the Bermuda National Trust.

The previous owner of this 1617 cover was a manuscript collector who bought the letter at the auction and in whose collection it remained until last month. Antony Pettit, a dealer in Bermudiana, heard of the letter and obtained it from William Reese of New Haven who secured it from its owner. David Pitts, whose Bermuda collection I curate, learned of the cover and added it to his collection.

His International Large Gold and National Grand Award winning exhibit already includes the then earliest known cover, from 1620 and another from 1628. A third 1620 cover resides in Charles Freeland's collection. This brings the total of Rich letters in private hands to four.

The philatelic importance of the 1617 cover is hard to overstate. It is the earliest recorded letter from any British extra-territorial territory, written within 5 years of the British settlement of the islands.

The writing is difficult to translate. The cover panel, dated internally 22 May 1617 (Fig. 2), is addressed 'To my Honorable good friend Robert Rich, Knight at his house in Hyghe Holborne from the Somer Islande' (Fig. 3) and docketed on receipt as received from 'Somer Islande.' (Fig. 4) In it, Wolferston describes a relatively smooth passage and gives considerable detail into the state of the islands, overrun with rats, bedevilled by storms and strong winds, the difficulty (at this stage) of agriculture. There was a shortage of just about everything; he specifically mentions shoes. He plans to travel further into the West Indies and believes that tobacco is probably the best hope for profit. The island had already been divided into the eight 'tribes' or parishes as they are now called.

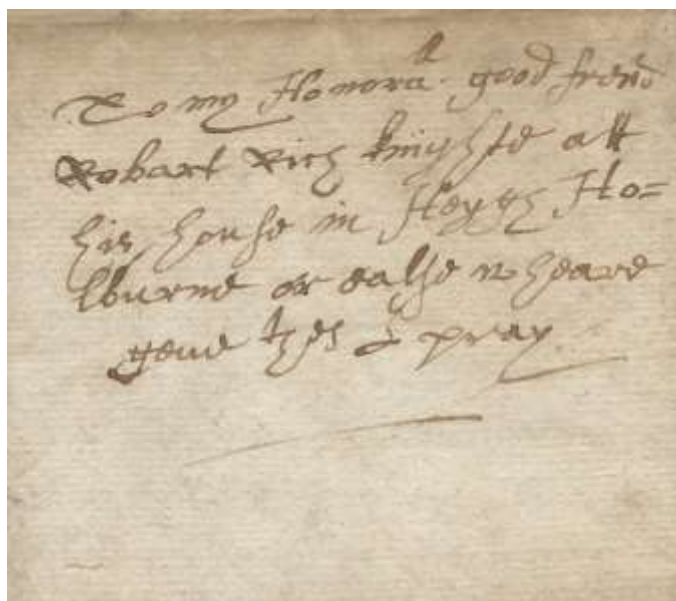


Fig. 3

A total of nine letters were sent to England aboard the *George*, which departed Bermuda in late May 1617. Since returning ships were few and far between, it is usual to see a number of letters in the Papers carried on the same ship. This often results in considerable repetition, to the consternation of the transcribers.

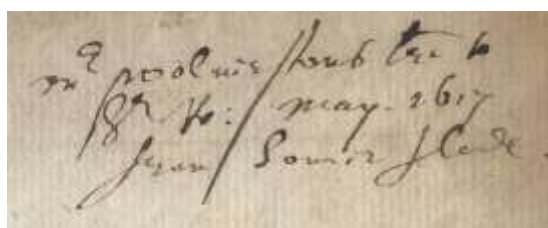


Fig. 4

The opportunity to study a cover such as this outside of an archive is a rare treat.

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

BY ARTHUR H. GROTEN

David Pitts and I are currently working on a book on Bermuda postal history from the beginning up until 1877 when she entered the UPU. Our census now includes about 1300 covers but no doubt there are more.

In order to make it as comprehensive as possible, we are appealing to members who have covers from that era to share that material with us. In particular, we are looking for unusual items that would expand our overall understanding. This includes, rates (e.g. multiple rates, registry), routes (e.g. unusual carriage, covers to and from small island towns), markings (e.g. handstamps or manuscript directions, forwarders), military usages (incl. civil War blockade, soldier's mail). We are also seeking interesting content.

If you can help, please send scans or photocopies to me. If there are marks on the back, please send those as well.

Acknowledgement will, of course, be made.

Thank you.

Art Groten, P.O. Box 3366, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12603
Email: artgroten@optonline.net

BRITISH GUIANA

KING GEORGE VI BOOKLET

BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT

Booklets, let alone the practice of exploding them, are not my collecting bag.

Fig. 1, however, reveals hidden depths in the previously stitched margins and poses intriguing questions. An imprint block of the 3c, is a bonus, but a Plate 5 number is riches indeed.

Stanley Gibbons Part I lists three distinct KGV booklets, SB 7/8/9, SB9 in six variants which incorporate perforation changes in the issue period 1945–49.

Unless the covers and stamps in Fig. 1 are a composite of the remaining stamps in more than one booklet, which is entirely possible, then are some questions to resolve (help, please, from you BG bookleteers reading this).

1. Were the booklets issued stitched both left and right?
2. Were any booklets issued with panes other than the three panes of four (each) of the 1c, 2c and 3c as listed by both Gibbons and Murray Payne?
3. All the stamps in the figure show the 1949 change of perforation and must have been drawn from the rather scarce SB9F, the last of the six variants. Date of issue?
4. As the binding of the booklets required one in two stamps in the panes of four to retain a selvedge, were the original sheets dismembered manually to produce these perfect perforations? Were the selvedges then guillotined to produce margins of exactly equal size? What happened to the remaining 36 stamps in each sheet of 60 once the maximum 6 panes had been removed?



GUYANA

ANNAI HANDSTAMP

BY ERNST SCHLUNEGGER



The village Annai is located in the Rupununi region one mile south off the main road from Georgetown to Lethem (border to Brasilia). The place name derives from a Carib word that means pineapple. Less than 600 people are living in Annai central. Just outside of Annai is the Rock View Lodge, built in the 1950s, a tourism resort with a swimming pool, and a nearby airstrip. In a separate building of the lodge we found a postal agency, selling postage stamps and using a handstamp not yet illustrated in 'The Postal History of British Guyana' by E. B. Proud. The postal agent is Colin Edwards, who bought Rock View in 1992.

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BRITISH HONDURAS

ROATAN REVISITED

BY IAN MATHESON

I was browsing a few old journals today and Simon Goldblatt's article¹ on Roatan caught my attention.

The first mention of Roatan was in a Colonial Office memo in 1741 where Roatan ('Rattan') and Bonacca were referred to as part of the Bay Settlements, including Belize. On 23 February 1742 it was proposed that the Bay Islands should be settled.

The earliest letter from the island may be the EL I described in my article² in 1989. The letter is no longer in my possession but was dated 9 March 1743/4 (sic). The letter opens

Dear Sir,

I am sorry to hear that this Great Distance and the want of Opportunity prevents my hearing of yours and the rest of my Relations welfare, which at all times would be very Acceptable to me Especially in this Remote part of the world. The last letter I Received from you was dated the 20 June 1742. I thank God that after a long fit of the Agues, I am now very well; we have had a great mortality here but now the people begin to recover.

I am informed that a form of Establishment is to be sent over from England by the first men of war that comes to Jamaica; and this Independent Company there, are to be made a Marching Regiment of which we are to have 200 sent to this place to Reinforce the Garrison. We were lately threatened with an invasion from Havanna upon which the Admiral sent two men of war to assist in case any such thing should happen having at the same time, two more lying in the harbor but we have not as yet had the pleasure of Saluting the Dons nor do I expect to see them here where they can Expect nothing but blows.

Once I wrote to you that I have been over on that part of the Mosquitos Shore where there are severall English familys settled. There are about thirty familys, and only five or Six white Women amongst them, but the men are at no loss for women, for they take up with what they call mustees, begot between a white man and an Indian Woman, they are of a Swarthy Complexion, and some of them have Agreeable Features. The soil is very rich and will produce anything that you plant more that what serves them one year and that is only a food called Yams, which tastes like our potatoes, but stronger, this they Boile or Roast and use in the place of bread.

Etc"

The formalisation of Roatan as a Colony did not take place for several decades, and the British Honduras archives³ list many instances where the Spanish tried to clear the settlers from the island, then England re-asserted its authority. Finally, an entry of 30 April 1839 reports that 'HMS Rover arrived in the Port of Belize on the 16th instant, with instructions from Lord Palmerston to proceed to 'Ruatan' for the purpose of hauling down any foreign flag which might be hoisted on the Island'. It is considered that the English were the official Colonists from this date.

In September 1851 the inhabitants recommended that the Superintendent of Belize should preside over their Legislative Assembly in Roatan. It was proclaimed a British Colony on 20 March 1852.

All of this came to an end with the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty⁴, which sought to establish an agreement for the creation of a neutral zone on either side of the new Panama Canal. Both parties, USA and Great Britain, agreed not to obtain nor maintain any exclusive control over the projected Panama Canal, nor to erect or maintain fortifications commanding the canal; neither the United States nor the British were to occupy, fortify, colonise, or assume dominion over any part of Central America. The term 'Central America' obviously required further clarification. It was consequently agreed (Dallas-Clarendon Treaty of October 1856) that the settlement of Belize fell outside the scope of the Treaty. However Her Majesty's Settlements of Roatan and Mosquitia were not so lucky. The Mosquito Territory was ceded to Nicaragua and the Bay Islands (including Roatan) were ceded to the Republic of Honduras.

From this juncture onwards Roatan slipped out of our listing of 'British West Indies'.

It remains one of the most popular tourist spots in Honduras. Many cruise ships call there. It is at the end of the world's second longest coral reef and I have enjoyed wonderful snorkel dives on vacation there. Flights arrive directly from Italy. Many postcards have been sent home from delighted holiday-makers.

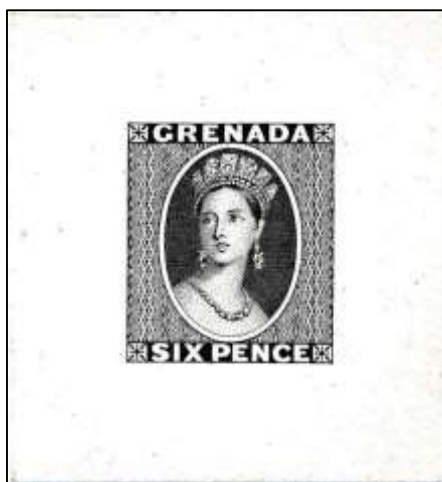
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NEVIS

THE ENGRAVED DIES FOR THE NEVIS MEDICINAL SPRING STAMPS

BY IAN JAKES

The Nevis book written by Federico Borromeo and Charles Freeland published by BWISC in 2014 states that Waterlow & Sons probably carried out the engraving of the plates for the first Nevis medicinal spring issues. My article, published in BWISC Bulletin No. 246 in September 2015 states that Nissen & Parker probably did the engraving and that the printing of the first Nevis stamps was contracted out to a third party. I do not think that third party was Waterlow & Sons. The printing of the stamps is not up to Waterlow's standard. This leaves the outstanding question. Who did the engraving – Waterlow & Sons or Nissen & Parker?

Nissen & Parker were jobbing printers. Their salesman obtained an order from the authority in Nevis for the printing of the first 'medicinal spring' Nevis stamps. Undoubtedly, one of the contract conditions was that the stamps would be recess printed, being the best printing method for the prevention of fraud. The Nevis book suggests that the contract price was £244 12s 0d., about three times more than Perkins Bacon would have charged for similar work. A deposit of £122 was paid before the work was commenced. The balance of the contract price, being £122 12s 0d., was paid in early 1863, shortly after the financial irregularities by Mr. Liburd, the Nevis postmaster, were discovered. It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that the contract price for the stamps was deliberately inflated with the intention that Nissen & Parker should receive one half of the contract price i.e. £122 6s 0d in full and final settlement of their contract claim and that someone connected with the Nevis authority, not necessarily Mr. Liburd, should retain the balance also of £122.6s.0d. for his own benefit. The shortfall of six shillings which Nissen & Parker should have received may have resulted in Nissen & Parker having a fit of pique.

First the essays, and then, later the proofs, which according to the Nevis book are of excellent recess printed standard, are produced to and approved by the Nevis authority. After these approvals have been received the stamps themselves are printed. It is at this time that standards can slip. Nissen & Parker could have deliberately arranged for the stamps to be recess printed on inferior paper in an attempt to make up the shortfall in the 'deposit'. Alternatively the high contract price may be as a result of forty-eight engravings having to be made for the stamps rather than a much lesser number of engravings – see later for full details.

Nissen & Parker would not have been tendering for the work unless they had the ability to perform any contract which was obtained. Nissen & Parker obtained a very good contract here, but they had a problem. They did not do recess printing. Some evidence for this is on page 52 of the Nevis book, where Nissen & Parker's services in 1853 are shown to be letterpress printing (e.g. 'Revenue' overprints). engraving, lithography and lithographic printing of every description, but not recess (intaglio) printing.

The four Nevis plate dies each bore twelve subjects, three across and four down, engraved by hand, probably with the assistance of a pantograph. Whilst it is of philatelic interest that the stamps can be assigned to their original positions on the sheet, it is undesired by the issuing authority which normally required comparative identity of subjects to minimise the risk of successful forgery. Also, such printing is wasteful of labour in actual engraving. I cannot imagine Waterlow & Sons engraving every stamp on the sheet as a separate image. So far as I am aware, Waterlows have not engraved a die bearing more than one subject for the production of a postage stamp. They, like Perkins Bacon, and other security printers, would make one design and then multiply that design, in earlier times by hand and later mechanically.

The reader needs to understand the basics of recess printing. Recess printing needed not only the engraved soft steel die, but also a steel transfer roller, a steel plate and a transfer press together with a method of case hardening the steel. The transfer press used in the 1860s was probably operated by hand. This is a massive piece of equipment, taller than a man. The grooves in the engraved die were filled with ink and the flat surfaces of the die and steel plate were wiped clean of ink. Ink was transferred to the stamp paper by a combination of high pressure and 'rocking'. Parts of the paper are forced into the grooves on the die, and this makes the image on the paper which matches the engraving on the die.

An operator, known as a siderographist, pulled down a handle, the end of which was higher than his head, which operation caused the steel transfer roller to be rocked. The pulling on the handle also created pressure. The pressure on the paper between the die and the flat bed can exceed 10 tons. Sometimes the image on the stamp paper has to be rocked at various pressures up to a 100 times to create a perfect line engraved proof. This is a very specialist procedure way beyond the capability and financial resources of most jobbing printers such as Nissen & Parker.

By reason of the matters set out in the preceding paragraphs I concur with the opinion of S.G. Bailey who wrote in an article which appeared in *West-End Philatelist*, Jan–Feb 1954 entitled 'The Issues of Nevis'. The article states that 'Messrs. Nissen & Parker were designers and engravers, there being no conclusive proof that they actually printed any of these (first medicinal spring) stamps. The method they appear to have adopted was to obtain the contract for the particular issues in question, and after preparing and engraving the design, sub-contract the printing....'

The alternative view held by the authors of the Nevis book that Waterlow & Sons engraved the first Nevis medicinal spring dies relies on an article by S.A. Brown entitled 'The stamps of the Virgin Islands' which appeared in the *London Philatelist* Vol. 58, 1949, p.145. If you read this article carefully you will note that Messrs. Nissen & Parker were instructed to prepare and provide certain postage stamps for the Virgin Islands. Sir Edgar Waterlow states that the whole of the early records in connection with the printing and production of the stamps of the Virgin Islands were destroyed during World War 2. Sir Edgar states that the manager of the engraving department in the 1860s was Mr. J.B. Rapkin, who, however, was not an engraver. Sir Edward thinks that their engraving manager probably gave the work of engraving the dies of the four values for the Virgin Islands stamps to an outside subcontractor. There is a degree of uncertainty here as to who, exactly, engraved the dies for the First Virgin Islands stamps. There is no mention at all of the engraving of the dies for the Nevis stamps a few years earlier.

In 1866 Nissen & Parker printed the first Virgin Islands stamps using the lithography printing method. In 1876–78 Nissen & Parker used lithography to print further Nevis medicinal spring stamps. Nissen & Parker did not have the expertise or equipment for the superior recess printing although they could get away with lithographic printing. Did Nissen & Parker have engraving expertise? They clearly did to some extent. In the late 19th century it was very unusual for any person, firm, or company to enter into a contract for services with a view to subcontracting the whole contract to a third party. This modern day concept was not then fully formed.

My conclusion is that when Nissen & Parker entered into contracts with the authorities in Nevis and in the Virgin Islands, Nissen & Parker had the intention of performing part of the contract and subcontracting part of the contract, either the engraving or the printing. In the case of the Nevis contract, Nissen & Parker could only do the engraving, but not the recess printing.

In the case of the Virgin Islands contract, Nissen & Parker could do both the engraving and the lithographic printing. My view is that Nissen & Parker learned a lesson from the engraving on the Nevis contract, and decided that engraving one image for each stamp value, rather than a number of images for each stamp, made economic sense and also helped to prevent fraud. It is probable that the estimate to engrave one image for each value of the new Virgin Islands stamps, and thereafter to multiply the design by hand, was less than the cost to Nissen & Parker of making multiple engravings of the same stamp. It is probable that Waterlow's offer to carry out the engraving of the dies on a sub-contract were accepted. After all, this would be to the financial advantage of Nissen & Parker and they could still do the lithographic printing.

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Anything West Indies related considered

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ST. LUCIA**ST. LUCIA TO 1885, PART 2****BY CHARLES FREELAND AND GEOFF KELLOW RDP****1876—1881 PRINTINGS ON WATERMARK CROWN CC PAPER****ONE PENNY GREY-BLACK, Line Perf. 14**

In 1876 the line perf. 12½ machine was replaced by one gauging 14. This was used for the final four printings of the One Penny on Crown CC paper, totalling 37,920 stamps:

Invoice Date	Quantity
16 May 1876	15,360
26 September 1878	9,600
28 March 1881	2,400
29 June 1881	10,560

The grey-black shade varies little and this, with the rarity of covers, makes identification of consignments impossible. The watermark seems to be always normal. Multiples of this stamp are much scarcer than the earlier perf. 12½ printings with blocks of 12 mint and 8 used the highest recorded.

FOUR PENCE, Line Perf. 14

There were three printings of the 4d on Crown CA paper perforated with the line perf. 14 machine, the first of which was incorrectly entered by De La Rue into their invoice book as the 1s value. These were:

Invoice Date	Quantity
16 May 1876	10,320
28 March 1881	7,200
29 June 1881	10,800

The few covers recorded prior to 1881 show no distinctive shades compared to later uses. The stamps are in various tones of yellow and chrome-yellow. Reversed watermarks are common and may represent one printing. Mint blocks of 25, 20, 16 and 12 have been seen also a used top marginal block of 6.

Covers bearing the 4d value become much more common after 1 January 1881, when St. Lucia joined the General Postal Union and the rate of 4d over 300 miles was adopted.

SIX PENCE, Line Perf. 14

There were two printings of the 6d on Crown CA paper perforated with the line perf. 14 machine. These were:

Invoice Date	Quantity
16 May 1876	10,320
26 September 1878	14,400

There are three distinctive shades, with violet relatively scarce and clearly forming a portion only of one of the consignments. Mint blocks are scarce with only a single block of 20 in violet and about a dozen blocks of 4 in any of the shades recorded.

A cover in the Jaffé collection allocates the violet shade to the first consignment. The mauve stamps probably represent the remaining (and larger) portion of the first consignment. The shade varies considerably. Pale lilac is the commonest shade, with recorded covers from 1880, suggesting that the pale lilac belongs to the second consignment. Still the stamp is very scarce on cover and the allocation of shades is tentative.

**David Feldman**

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ONE SHILLING, Line Perf. 14

There were two printings of the 1s on Crown CA paper perforated with the line perf. 14 machine. These were:

Invoice Date	Quantity
13 September 1876	11,760
26 September 1878	9,600

The majority of stamps are in shades of red-orange and deep orange, but there is a relatively scarce group ranging from orange to pale orange. These two groups do not appear to be able to be assigned to the two consignments, and the paler shades show some evidence of being dry ink varieties. Mint blocks of 20, 12 and about 15 blocks of 4 have been seen, plus one used block of 6.

1881(?) UNISSUED LOCAL SURCHARGES

There is no official information regarding the 'Half/penny' on 6d and 'Six/pence' on 4d, surcharged on remainders of the first De La Rue printings of 1863. Their date of production is uncertain, but the most likely possibilities are 1876, when St. Lucia raised the question of surcharging with the Crown Agents, or more probably 1881, following membership of the U.P.U. when a ½d stamp was required. The surcharges were never issued, and were first recorded in philatelic journals in 1885.

'Half/penny' on 6d GREEN, Watermark Crown CC

At least two unused blocks of 30 exist. It is suggested that this represents the size of the setting (one-eighth of a sheet), surcharged using foundry type with an unsatisfactory ink, making identification of any constant varieties difficult. The setting up of the surcharge was carefully done, since no spacing varieties are apparent. However, the several blocks of 30 recorded do not exhibit the plate positions which would result from simple division of a sheet of 240 into eighths. Part sheets may have been amongst the stock available for surcharging. The 'used' copies are cancelled by favour.

'Six/pence' on 4d INDIGO, Watermark Crown CC

There was no reason for a 6d surcharge. It may have been done to correct the imbalance in the accounts created by the reduction in face value of the 6d stamps, but the relative proportions of the two surcharges seen today do not support this theory.

No unused multiples of the 'Six/pence' on 4d have been recorded but the 15 stamps in the Jaffé collection were arranged according to placement of the surcharge on the stamp, in an effort to identify the number of surcharge settings. Four separate positions were identified, two with surcharges placed centrally, one to top right and one to top left. The notorious error 'Sex' for 'Six' in the Jaffé collection ex Forsythe is the only recorded example. It was probably corrected after the first block was printed.

The Jaffé collection contained four 'fantasy' overprints ex Burrus. These surcharges were once considered essays, but are now believed to be fantasies created for Ferrary probably by the 'London Gang' of Benjamin and Sarpy.

1881 VALUE SURCHARGED, WATERMARK CROWN CC**HALFPENNY GREEN, Line Perf. 14**

In 1876, following a mistake when De La Rue printed a supply of 1s stamps in yellow, the question of overprinting the denominations of the stamps on the sheets was raised. De La Rue used the opportunity to suggest discontinuing the Perkins, Bacon plate and introducing a surface-printed key plate system. Nothing was done until 1881, when St. Lucia became a member of the Universal Postal Union. New ½d and 2½d values were required, and U.P.U. regulations required that the denominations be shown. On 26 August 1881 240-set duty overprints plates were invoiced at £3-3-0 each.

The first consignment of ½d stamps, on Crown CC paper, comprised 12,720 stamps. A reversed watermark variety is known. No covers are recorded bearing this stamp. Blocks of 8 and 6 appear to be the largest.

TWOPENCE HALFPENNY BROWN-RED, Line Perf. 14

The only consignment of 2½d stamps, on Crown CC paper, was invoiced on 26 August 1881, and comprised 13,200 stamps. Blocks of 87, 72 (probably taken from the same block) 15, 12, 9 and 8 are recorded.

1882–1884 VALUE SURCHARGED, WATERMARK CROWN CA

HALFPENNY GREEN, Line Perf. 14

A second printing of the ½d was invoiced on 24 April 1882, and comprised 19,440 stamps. This was printed on the new Crown over CA watermarked paper. Blocks of 12 (2) and 10 appear to be the largest. The stamps is known with watermark reversed.

ONE PENNY GREY-BLACK, Line Perf. 14

Early in 1882 the first printings of the 1d, 4d, 6d and 1s stamps were required since the decision was made to overprint the stamps with the value in words. The 240-set 'ONE PENNY' duty overprint plate was invoiced on 25 February 1882 at £3-3-0, together with a supply of 23,320 stamps. These printings were also the first to use the new Crown over CA watermarked paper. There was one subsequent printing of 14,880 stamps, despatched on 24 April 1882. A single block of 12 is the largest known.

FOUR PENCE YELLOW, Line Perf. 14 (First Consignment)

The 240-set FOUR PENCE duty overprint plate was invoiced on 25 February 1882 at £3-3-0, together with a supply of 10,800 stamps. There was one subsequent printing of 14,400 stamps, despatched on 13 September 1883. Multiples are surprisingly common, with blocks of 12 (2), 5 and about 10 of 4 recorded.

SIX PENCE LILAC, Line Perf. 14

The 240-set SIX PENCE duty overprint plate was invoiced on 25 February 1882 at £3-3-0, together with a supply of 9,600 stamps. This was the only printing made. Blocks of 18 and 12 are the largest blocks available to the collector.

ONE SHILLING ORANGE, Line Perf. 14

The 240-set 'ONE SHILLING' duty overprint plate was invoiced on 25 February 1882 at £3-3-0, together with a supply of 2,640 stamps. This was the only printing made. The largest mint blocks known and 10, 6 (in the Royal Collection) and 4 (3). No covers bearing this stamp are recorded.

FOUR PENCE YELLOW, Line Perf. 12 (Second Consignment)

No mint multiples are known, but a used strip of 3 and a couple of used pairs are recorded. On Jaffé's pair the surcharges are at different levels.

1883 DE LA RUE SURFACE-PRINTING KEY PLATE

On 26 August 1882 the Administrator wrote to the Crown Agents to express a wish that all St. Lucia stamps have their value expressed in the design, and asking that quotes be obtained for 120-set plates for ½d, 2½d, 4d and 6d stamps. The Administrator suggested the Grenada design, but De La Rue used the opportunity to propose stamps printed from their General Key plate. The Administrator agreed to this suggestion and on 3 January 1883 the Crown Agents ordered so-called overprint formes for ½d, 1d and

2½d duties. These were invoiced on 21 February at £12 each. Die proofs are known pulled from the Die I General Key plate die with handpainted tablets and simulated perforations added in pencil.

Pulled on 4 January 1883, the day following the formal Crown Agents' order, a die proof in the Jaffé collection shows the handpainted tablets for a ½d stamp amended by removal of the line and stop under 'T' of 'ST', and with drawings of 1d and 2½d tablets alongside. Endorsed by William De La Rue *'Engrave in same style as usual'*, the issued design of the ½d was further simplified by removing the superscript 'T'.

The Die I General key plate was 120-set, but the De La Rue invoices indicate the stamps were supplied 60-set. In 1884 4d, 6d and 1s values were added to the series. The ½d, 1d and 2½d were printed in the U.P.U. colours of green, red and blue respectively.

1883–1886 DIE I WATERMARK CROWN CA, PERF. 14

HALFPENNY GREEN

The 60-set overprint plate was invoiced on 21 February 1883. In total, there were six printings of the ½d using the Die I key plate:

Invoice Date	Quantity	Invoice Date	Quantity
21 February 1883	12,120	4 May 1886	27,900
28 April 1884	18,360	30 June 1886	9,000
29 June 1885	24,360	21 March 1889	18,000

The fugitive ink used makes the classification of shades based on dated copies very difficult.

TWOPENCE HALFPENNY BLUE

Also first invoiced on 21 February 1883, there were seven printings of the 2½d using the Die I key plate:

Invoice Date	Quantity	Invoice Date	Quantity
21 February 1883	12,000	30 June 1886	8,100
28 April 1884	1,320	6 September 1887	18,000
13 February 1885	12,000	21 March 1889	18,000
4 May 1886	12,180		

There are shade differences, but these are difficult to allocate to the various printings

ONE PENNY CARMINE-ROSE

A 60-set overprint plate for a 1d duty, together with a supply of stamps, was invoiced by De La Rue on 21 February 1883, and the stamp was issued on 6 July 1883 together with the ½d and 2½d. There were two consignments printed in carmine-rose from the Die I key plate, totalling 36,600 stamps:

Invoice Date	Quantity
21 February 1883	12,000
13 September 1883	24,600

Few shade differences are apparent, and with early dated examples difficult to find, an allocation between the two printings does not seem to be possible. A block of 12 is the largest block in private hands, followed by a plate block of 6.

FOUR PENCE BROWN

A 60-set overprint plate for a 4d duty was invoiced by De La Rue on 28 April 1884. There were six printings made from the Die I key plate, and the following study is based on dated examples. Contemporary journals record the issue of the stamp in early 1885.

Imperforate Plate Proof

The shade is somewhat deeper than any of the issued stamps.

First Consignment invoiced 28 April 1884 – 12,000 stamps

Key plate dull yellowish brown, with pale brown duty.

Second Consignment invoiced 4 May 1886 – 15,240 stamps

Key plate dull yellowish brown, with duty in similar shade

Third Consignment invoiced 30 May 1886 – 27,180 stamps

Key plate brown, with duty in similar or slightly deeper shade.

Fourth Consignment invoiced 6 September 1887 – 30,600 stamps

Key plate brown (slightly reddish), with duty in similar shade, slightly paler than the previous printing, and a very clear impression.

Fifth Consignment invoiced 21 March 1889 – 31,200 stamps

Key plate reddish brown, with duty shade similar.

Sixth Consignment invoiced 17 January 1891– 31,200 stamps

Key plate brown, with less red than other consignments, and duty shade similar

60-set overprint plates for 6d and 1s duties were invoiced by De La Rue on 28 April 1884. Single printings were made of each denomination in single colours prior to a change to bicoloured printing.

SIX PENCE LILAC

2,400 stamps invoiced 28 April 1884. The stock of Perkins Bacon design on hand meant that this stamp was not issued until late 1885. A single block of 4 ex the Charlton Henry collection is recorded, plus a fine strip of 3 used.

ONE SHILLING ORANGE-BROWN

2,400 stamps invoiced 28 April 1884. The stock of Perkins Bacon design on hand meant that this stamp was not issued until early 1886. The Royal Philatelic Collection contains a mint plate block of 4, otherwise the largest multiples are pairs.

1885-1891 DIE I DOUBLY FUGITIVE INKS

On 18 May 1885 the Crown Agents wrote to De La Rue advising that St. Lucia had decided to discontinue separate revenue stamps, and that in future the postage stamps would also be used for revenue purposes. As a consequence, the 1d, 3d, 6d and 1s denominations needed to be printed in doubly fugitive ink. There were three consignments of the 1d printed in dull mauve.

ONE PENNY DULL MAUVE**First Consignment invoiced 30 June 1886 – 42,600 stamps.**

Dull shade, with duty plate pale.

Note: Easton assigned these stamps to the preceding carmine-rose colour, on the evidence that SPECIMEN stamps were not supplied until the next consignment. However, dated copies prove that this printing was in dull mauve.

Second Consignment invoiced 6 September 1887 – 41,920 stamps

Dull mauve, clear impression, with duty plate in same shade.

400 specimens supplied with the first printings of the 6d and 1s invoiced on the same date.

Third Consignment invoiced 21 March 1889 – 42,000 stamps

Dull mauve, more reddish and less clear impression than the second consignment, with duty plate in the same shade.

THREE PENCE DULL MAUVE AND GREEN

The Crown Agents ordered a 3d stamp on 18 May 1885 in doubly fugitive ink. De La Rue pointed out that this denomination did not exist in the key plate series, and a new duty plate would be required, at a cost of £12, which was approved. There were five consignments of the 3d:

Invoice Date	Quantity
30 June 1886	2,820
17 February 1887	2,400
6 September 1887	6,000
21 March 1889	6,000
6 November 1890	6,000

The 3d value was used primarily for revenue purposes, and postal usage was limited. The duty plate can be found in deep green (1887) and green (1888 to 1890). Allocation to consignments beyond two shades of duty plate does not seem possible. An unknown quantity (perhaps about 1,200) was used for producing a surcharged provisional in 1892.

SIX PENCE DULL MAUVE AND BLUE

New printings of the 6d and 1s in doubly fugitive ink were not required until 1887. There were three consignments of each denomination from the Die I key plate:

Invoice Date	6d Quantity	1s Quantity
6 September 1887	12,000	6,000
21 March 1889	12,240	6,000
17 January 1891	12,120	12,120

ONE SHILLING DULL MAUVE AND RED

The Jaffé collection identified two different shades for the duty plate in red and orange-red.

1891–1898 DIE II WATERMARK CROWN CA, PERF. 14

On 15 October 1890 De La Rue asked the Crown Agents for permission to renew the key plate, which had yielded 61,519 impressions (for all Colonies). This was agreed, and on 21 January 1891 a new key plate was invoiced at £21-5-0, of which St. Lucia's share was £3-10-10. The new plate 3 was made from a recut die known as Die II and used for all the stamps from this series of printings.

HALFPENNY GREEN

Known with watermark inverted, which is rare. Printed from Die II plate 4 as well as plate 3. The 1953 catalogue of the Royal Collection by Sir John Wilson incorrectly records the use of plate 2 instead of plate 3 for this stamp.

ONE PENNY DULL MAUVE

Printed from Die II plate 4 as well as plate 3.

TWOPENCE HALFPENNY ULTRAMARINE

Jaffé identified four shades of this stamp, deep ultramarine, ultramarine and pale ultramarine, plus a deep duty plate shade.

FIVE SHILLINGS and TEN SHILLINGS

In a letter dated 27 February 1891 the Crown agents ordered two new values — five shillings and ten shillings. De La Rue suggested these be printed in doubly fugitive green ink, but the Crown Agents felt that this would clash with the ½d, so the usual doubly fugitive purple ink was used. The duty plates were invoiced at the usual £12 each, together with the only printings made, 30,600 5s and 120,000 10s, on 11 May 1891. 400 specimens of each were supplied.

TWO PENCE ULTRAMARINE AND ORANGE

An order for a new 2d denomination was sent to De La Rue by the Crown Agents on 7 January 1898. A colour proof was approved on 13 January and die proofs struck on 7 February. The duty plate was invoiced at £12 and charged at the same time as the first consignment of 153,720 stamps, despatched on 17 March 1898. 400 specimens were supplied.

THE 1891–2 PROVISIONAL OVERPRINTS

‘ONE PENNY’ on 4d BROWN

A shortage of the 1d dull mauve De La Rue key plate late in 1891 led to the surcharging of the 4d Die I key plate. This provisional was issued in December 1891 and the quantity issued was reported as 6,700.

The surcharge was produced from foundry type set up in a vertical strip of 10, and applied to the successive columns of complete panes. There are thus ten different surcharges varying slightly in spacing, and including two important surcharge varieties involving the use of a different font.

The ‘N’ in these two varieties is slightly smaller than normal, with a thick diagonal showing a broad base. Kiss prints of the surcharge are prevalent on this issue.

‘½d’ on HALF 6d DULL MAUVE AND BLUE

A further shortage, this time of the ½d green De La Rue key plate early in 1892 led to provisional surcharges on the 3d and 6d key plates. The 6d Die 1 was bisected prior to surcharging. Stamps cancelled on 25 January may be first day. The quantity issued was reported as 9,600. To produce the bisected surcharges sheets of 6d stamps were bisected vertically down each row creating double vertical strips of bisects, which were then divided horizontally, creating vertical blocks of 10, which represent the size of the surcharge setting.

Several different settings can be identified, differentiated on the basis of the positioning of the fraction bars. It seems likely that there were a number of printings, between which there was a resetting of the surcharges. For example, Setting B No. 9, Setting C No. 10 and Setting D No. 6 appear to be the same surcharge, showing an identical misplaced fraction bar, and broken right serif at foot of ‘1’.

The ‘1’ on No. 2 is a different font, thicker and with a short, deeply curved serif.

The method of surcharging the sheets of 6d stamps meant that the left and right bisected columns of the sheet were left over after the vertical blocks had been surcharged. There is evidence that these strips were surcharged from a separate setting.

‘ONE HALF PENNY’ on 3d DULL MAUVE AND GREEN

‘ONE/HALF/PENNY’ surcharges on the 3d key plate were probably issued at the same time as the bisected 6d surcharges, although early dates are scarce and most used examples are cancelled posthumously. Stocks of both Die I and Die II sheets were surcharged, with the total issue reported as being 4,300.

The typeset surcharge was applied to half panes of 30 stamps. The major surcharge varieties are:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| No. 6 | Defective ‘F’ of ‘HALF’ and ‘Y’ of ‘PENNY’ |
| No. 12 | Small ‘O’ of ‘ONE’ |

- No. 15 Defective uprights to second 'N' of 'PENNY'
- No. 20 Right upright of first 'N' of 'PENNY' missing
- No. 24 'O' of 'ONE' over 'H' of 'HALF'
- No. 30 'O' of 'ONE' tilted to right

The listed small 'A' of 'HALF' is a variety not on the full setting, possibly from a small printing made from battered type.

THE REVENUE STAMPS

1881 LOCAL SURCHARGES, WATERMARK CROWN CC, PERF. 14

'ONE PENNY/STAMP' on (1d) Grey-black

The introduction of revenue stamps was gazetted on 16 November 1881. Pending the arrival of De La Rue-printed surcharges from London, adhesives were created using local typeset surcharges on the current Perkins, Bacon types. Three types of local surcharges were used in the first few months. All these revenue stamps were authorised for postal use from 14 April 1885. In practice, virtually all such usage was philatelic in nature, and cleaned stamps with postal cancellations, both genuine and forged, are also frequently seen. The first local surcharge was in small capitals, on 1d, 4d, 6d and 1s stamps.

The Jaffé collection contained an error 'COUR' for 'FOUR', apparently unique. The 6d is rarely seen. The 'SHILDING' error is much more plentiful than the 'SHILEING' error, suggesting that the former may occur several times in the surcharge setting. However, the error does appear to exist in multiples with normal stamps. Only about six examples of the shileing have been recorded (Fig. 3). The 1d is listed with inverted and double overprint.



Fig. 3

Virtually no multiples of these surcharges exist to provide any indication of the surcharge settings.

1881 LOCAL SURCHARGES ON WATERMARK CROWN CC, PERF. 14

'One Penny/Stamp' on (1d) Grey-black

A second style of local surcharge of the same four values used larger type in lower case with capital initial letters. The surcharges were applied using a setting of unknown size made up of foundry type. There is virtually no evidence of commercial usage, and all postally used stamps are of philatelic origin. Here, too, virtually no multiples exist to provide any indication of the surcharge settings. The 1d is listed with double overprint and with watermark inverted and the 4d with watermark reversed. Although unlisted, the 6d exists with double overprint.

1881-1882 ADDITIONAL 'Stamp' OVERPRINTS

'Stamp' on HALFPENNY Green & 'Stamp' on ONE SHILLING Orange, Watermark Crown CC, Perf. 14

The third style of local surcharge used for the first issues of revenue stamps was applied to two 1881-82 De La Rue printings of the Perkins, Bacon types with denomination surcharged. The ½d and 1s values exist with an additional 'Stamp' overprinted below the denomination, using a setting of unknown size made up of foundry type. Both values are known with 'stamp' double.

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1882 DE LA RUE SURCHARGES ON WATERMARK CROWN CA**ONE PENNY Black**

Six stamps were ordered from De La Rue as a permanent revenue issue, with values 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d and 1s. This issue utilised the postage stamp plate, using special printings with the word 'REVENUE' added below the denomination. Two values were required for fiscal purposes which do not appear in the postage issues – pale blue and deep blue stamps for 2d and 3d denominations respectively. There were two perforations, all bar the 1s in perf 4d and the 1d, 3d and 1s in perf 12. Bisects of the 1d with two whole stamps for 2½d U.P.U. rate are known. The 6d is recorded with watermark reversed.

1883 LOCAL 'Revenue' OVERPRINTS

During 1883 shortages of the De La Rue printings of revenue stamps led to further local printings. The current postage issues were overprinted 'Revenue' in three different types.

ONE PENNY Grey-black

'Revenue' 11mm long, known with 'Revenue' Double and 'Revenue' inverted.
'Revenue' 13mm long.

HALFPENNY Green, ONE PENNY Grey-black, ONE PENNY Carmine all perf 14 and FOUR PENCE Yellow, Perf. 12

'Revenue' 15½mm long. The ½d and 1d are known with 'Revenue' double and the 1d additionally with it double, one inverted and triple.

1884-1885 DE LA RUE KEY PLATE 'REVENUE' OVERPRINTS**ONE PENNY SLATE, Watermark Crown CA, Perf. 14**

In 1884 a further supply of 1d Revenue stamps was ordered from De La Rue, this time overprinted on the Die I key plate, printed in a different colour to the postage stamp – first in slate and subsequently, in the following year, in doubly fugitive purple.

ONE PENNY DULL MAUVE, Watermark Crown CA, Perf. 14

The printing in doubly fugitive purple ink was ordered on 16 March 1885 and comprised 30,000 stamps. Before it was despatched, on 18 May 1885, the Crown Agents advised De La Rue that St. Lucia had decided to abandon the use of stamps overprinted 'REVENUE'. Many of these stamps were consequently used for postal purposes.

POSTSCRIPT**THE CRAWFORD COLLECTION**

It is also worth mentioning, from an historical perspective, the additional large mint blocks in the Crawford collection, sold in 1915 (LP November 1915, page iv), although some of these have evidently since been broken up:

1860 – No Wmk 4d block of 24, 6d block of 30
1876 – Wmk Crown CC perf. 14 - 4d block of 20, 1s block of 20
1881–½d block of 16, 2½d block of 12
1882-84 – 1d block of 20, 6d block of 30 (now in blocks of 18 and 12?).



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AUCTION UPDATE**BY CHARLES FREELAND****Warwick & Warwick 2 September (BP 18%)**

This sale of former member Len Mason's Bahamas was something of a disappointment because it appeared that some of the cherries had already been picked from it. I recall that many years ago Len told me that he had a 2s Columbus upper right block with stop after Columbus on pos. 24, but there was no sign of it in the sale. The sale still went pretty well, especially considering the flop of the Levine Bahamas at the same house a few months earlier. The 'big' lot was the spectacular block of 12 of SG 1, which failed to find a buyer, as did the four preadhesive covers reoffered from Levine. But the sheet of SG2 was £1.4k and a nice copy of SG 6 was £1.25k, with most of the early QV 'dogs' selling although the prices were hardly exciting. The mixed lots mostly sold well above estimate although I did not view so that could mean little. The range of 1884–6 mint issues including a £1 plate pair was £850 against a £400 estimate but the Sperati £1 die proof in colour was unsold. Two rare modern varieties were the 6d Landfall COIUMBUS in a used marginal block of four at £470 and the 1963 Freedom from Hunger 8d with missing value used on piece at £1k. But perhaps the rarest stamp was the Special Delivery overprint inverted with double tree-trunk flaw at £800.

Later in the same sale was a great St. Vincent rarity, the 1893 5d on 6d SG 60c, quite often seen used but this one was unused. Sadly the pink cert reads '...part original gum which has been re-spread over a thin spot'. This resulted in a price of a mere £675.

Stanley Gibbons 22 September (BP 18%)

The 'Robert Atkinson' collection which featured important Br. Guiana could have been a pseudonym as I do not recognise the name but it must have come from outside the EU as it was subject to an additional 5% VAT on the hammer price. It was not clear how the three cotton reels would go after the Feldman flop but they sold pretty well, with £7.5k paid for the 4c lemon-yellow, £4.6k for the 8c and £3.2k for the 12c, even though each was circular with thins/splints. The unused 1852 1c looked nice but was inevitably repaired, hence a price of only £1.9k, but a similar unused SG 25 was unsold. The 1856 4c blue with paper coloured through seemed good value at £24k for those who could afford it even though it had been cut octagonally and the corners added. Other decent Br. Guiana nearly all sold, but well below the prices achieved in the Foxley sale.

Spink 24 September (20% BP)

A good number of our members turned up for the second sale of the Vestey BWI, perhaps hoping that the sale would be as flat as the first and bargains would be on offer. That their trip was worth it I would not doubt but the Spink team seemed satisfied that the results were generally better than last time. This may be because the estimates and hence reserves seemed more conservative and any items acquired at reserve often looked to be a bargain, at least in terms of the prices that the Trustees had paid in the heady days of the mid 2000s. While it was indubitably a great collection overall, as an investment it was disastrous as many lots had been bought in the Baillie, Frazer, Jaffé, Marriott and other great name sales where competition was fierce; many lots now sold at half and some even down to a quarter of their acquisition cost. Time will tell what the true price level of many of the gems should be but with four or five rich and heavy buyers now out of the market we may have to wait till the Chinese hordes come to realise how cheap and attractive BWI rarities are before they recover to former levels.

First, some statistics. In the room there were a lot of unsolds, especially among the proof material where demand seems to have gone off the boil except for the Perkins Bacon original die proofs; but after-sales were strong and the take as I write was exactly £600k. Pretty well the only left-overs are highly priced proof and non-UPU specimen material. The stamp lots were mostly of outstanding quality and with after-sales taking place at two thirds of low estimate there were plainly many bargains for dealers and postal auctioneers.

My spies tell me the following members were in the room at some time or another, often forming a good majority of the few attendees: Messrs Duggleby, Duncan, Greenwood, Harrison, Jarvis, Kinnon, Medlicott, Podger and Richards. There was also of course a strong BWISC presence on the book, internet and phone, which was especially evident in the Barbados, Br Guiana and St. Vincent sections. But overall there was no single buyer who dominated....while I was not able to collect all the bidding numbers, it seems that no bidder acquired much more than 10% of the total 'take'. What was also notable was that the Taylors were absent (but bidding on the internet) and Philip Kinns for Gibbons seemed reluctant to compete except for mixed lots.

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So far as prices in general were concerned, the cheapest and the heaviest lots did well but those in the middle 100s or 1000s were mostly sticky. The mint Lady McLeod (£22k in the Marriott sale) at £34k was the obvious star, but the block of Br. Guiana 1934 4c imperf between was a healthy £28k, the same as the Jamaican 1s inverted frame. The other big Jamaica rarity, the slavery 6d, was toned so disappointed at £8.5k, but the 1921 2d imperf between vertical pair exceeded the SG price after add-ons at £13k. In Barbados the third (and nicest) 1s error of colour to be offered since June appeared to be a bargain at £4.8k but the spectacular corner example of the unissued ½d grass green perf 11 soared to £19k, well above the SG price. High prices for most of these rarities put smiles on the faces of the Spink staff and they made up for many low prices elsewhere. For example, the Britannia master die proof (lot 595) that sold in the Marriott sale for £12k was only £4k while the imperf Trinidad 5s specimen (lot 666) was a mere £400 compared with the £2.3k at which it sold in 2008. Although the Trinidad was the highest 'take' of the sale at c£120k it was also by far the worst performer in terms of return on investment.

So far as the other countries were concerned, demand did not quite run true to form. It was no great surprise that Br. Guiana was a virtual sell-out with several prices way above estimate. The many nice blocks of St. Lucia and St. Vincent were also in demand, albeit the St. Vincent sold for some way below their acquisition prices. All the important St. Vincent De La Rue proofs and essay material unsurprisingly headed down under. Grenada (much of it ex Towers or Concepcion) went better than I expected with the only complete Appendix sheet in the sale (lot 292) fetching almost double its low estimate, but Barbados and Tobago were less in demand than expected. Some glorious Br. Honduras pieces went pretty well and Jamaica was the second best 'seller' on the back of the many rarities.

Future events

The next **Victoria Stamp Co.** auction will be on 5 December in New York and the ads in this and the last Bulletin show what a special sale it will be. Apart from the Bermuda keyplates, Cayman Is. and Montserrat postal history mentioned in the last bulletin there will be some early Br. Guiana plating studies, plenty of early BWI postal history and a range of GVI varieties. The last **Vestey** sale to fall within our interests is the Bermuda on the morning of 10 December at **Spink**. I have viewed this and can confirm it will be quite a blockbuster for the Bermuda fraternity.....lots of lovely stamps and proofs, plus a fine postmaster on cover. You can order a copy of the catalogue online. On 11 December the second part of the Tatania sale is taking place at Feldman. This did not inspire me and probably none of our members unless you are into hugely expensive rarities such as the Bermuda Postmasters (there are two) and the 'Missing Virgin'. Before that we have Stella Pearse's Antigua at **Grosvenor**, but that will be over by the time you read this.

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